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Navy Answers Senate Report On Atlantic Fleet Readiness

Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze, in replying to a Senate subcommittee report on combat readiness of the Atlantic Fleet, said the fleet "is and has been capable of execution of all its contingency assignments."

Though the Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services was critical in some areas of operations and manpower, the report states: ". . . the Atlantic Fleet is still a formidable and efficient fighting force."

The subcommittee's conclusion also explains: "It is not the purpose of this report to be critical of the Atlantic Fleet or its officers and men."

Defense Department made additional comments supporting the readiness and manpower situation. DOD noted:

- Of the ships of the Atlantic Fleet permanently transferred to the Pacific, only three are designed principally for combat operations. This represents one percent of Atlantic Fleet strength. Other ships are engaged primarily in support roles.
- Atlantic Fleet attack aircraft carrier strength occasionally has dropped from six to five during the war period. Other of the Navy's 15 attack carriers, not already deployed, could be made available to redeploy from the Pacific to the Atlantic.
- The Atlantic Fleet is manned at more than 100 percent of its authorized numerical allowance. The percentage of senior enlisted men on board has not changed significantly since 1964: 84 percent of allowance on June 30, 1964, and 81 percent on Jan. 31, 1967.

Senate Passes Fund Authorization For Defense Home-Buying Program

An $11 million bill to recoup real estate losses incurred by servicemen and federal government employees as a result of base closures has been passed by the Senate.

This legislation represents the authorization of money to a public law already passed by Congress.

Public Law 89-754, enacted November 3, 1966, authorizes the Secretary of Defense to buy one and two-family dwellings occupied by their military or civil service owners at time of base closure subsequent to November 1, 1964.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR—RAdm. Roger W. Mehle, Commander, Carrier Division One, escorts the Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam, Nguyen Cao Ky, from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise. The Prime Minister visited the carrier to present more than 90 Vietnamese military decorations to U.S. Navymen and Marines of the Seventh Fleet.

U.S. Distributes M-16 Rifles To Allied Forces in Vietnam

The newest model M-16 rifles are being distributed to units of the South Korean and South Vietnamese forces serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

Distribution will be completed by the end of June to Republic of Vietnam Airborne and Marine Corps maneuver elements and Republic of Korea Army and Marine Corps combat formations.

In making the announcement, Defense Department said a small number of XM-16E1 rifles had been provided in the past to train Korean and Vietnamese forces to use the new weapons.

This version of the M-16 is equipped with a charging handle to clear jams, a device called "the forward bolt assist mechanism."

"All U.S. Army maneuver units in Vietnam are equipped with the XM-16E1, and all U.S. Marine Corps maneuver units either have the weapon on hand or enroute," a Defense Department news release said.

The Colt-manufactured M-16 is the military model of the commercially-developed AR-15.

Washington Memos

DEPUTY ASSISTANT Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Jeffrey C. Kitchen will be one of four foreign policy experts discussing "Forces that Shape U.S. Foreign Policy" at Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, April 19-22. Joining Kitchen will be Hanson Baldwin, military editor of New York Times; Rep. Paul Findley (R.-Ill.), member of House Foreign Affairs Committee, and RAdm. James F. Calvert, Director of Military and Political Affairs for Navy.

ARMY WILL COMPLETE phase-out of 17 commissary stores in France by June 30 to coincide with movement of U.S. forces. Other stores are being set up in the Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany and Belgium to accommodate relocated families.

AIR FORCE BRIGADIER General Roger E. Phelan has been named director of Air University's Aerospace Studies Institute at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Gen. Phelan replaces Col. George H. Blase, ASI director since October 1964, who will retire from Air Force this summer.

ALASKAN COMMAND, established in 1947 as nation's first unified command, has established a National Resource Conservation Section. Section will be headed by Edward A. Bellringer, Alaska fish and wildlife conservation officer, who was named to post by Lt. Gen. Glen R. Birchard, Commander-in-Chief, Alaska Command.

CONTRACT TOTALLING $6.2 million for Improved Hawk System advanced production engineering is being awarded to Raytheon Co., Lexington, Mass. Cost plus, fixed fee contract is being awarded by Missile Command, Andover, Mass., where work will be done.

FIRSTHAND LOOK AT Air Force operations is in store for some 410 Air Force Academy Second Classmen this summer at 70 bases from Alaska to the Canal Zone. Training period is June 8-August 16.

WINNERS OF 1966 Gen. Thomas D. White Fish and Wildlife Conservation Awards are Arnold Engineering Development Center, Tenn., and New Hampshire Satellite Tracking Station. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell is scheduled to present awards May 11. Judges made special mention of unique People-to-People program at Lajes Field, Azores.

ARMY REGISTER WILL be produced mechanically beginning with 1967 edition. Mechanization limits information entries, but essential personnel data elements are retained. Inclusion of all officers in Register, along with monetary and manpower savings, is said to compensate for changes caused by mechanical reproduction. New register is scheduled for delivery about April 15.

NEW REENLISTMENT OPTION is offered to qualified WACs in E-5, E-6 pay grades, for recruiting duty assignment. Details are in DA Msg 808941, which modifies AR 601-275 and AR 601-210.

DEPARTING DEPUTY COMMANDER- in- Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet and Chief of Staff to Commander-in-Chief Atlantic, VAdm. Waldemar F. Wendt, received Distinguished Service Medal during ceremonies at Atlantic Command Headquarters, Norfolk, Va. VAdm. Wendt was cited for service during tour of duty with Norfolk-based commands from August 1965 to March 1967.

CHIEF SURGEON, U. S. Army Pacific, Maj. Gen. Byron L. Steger, visited 2nd Infantry Division April 7 during part of six-day tour of medical facilities throughout Eighth Army Command.

NAVY CAPTAIN Walter M. Sessums has assumed post of Chief of Staff, Commander Second Fleet and NATO's Striking Fleet. Capt. Sessums reported for present duties following duty as Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Group Five in Western Pacific. He relieved Capt. Robert W. Windsor Jr., who has retired.

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION award has been approved for Third Reconnaissance Battalion (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, for action in Vietnam. Award was approved by Navy Secretary Paul Nitze and cited battalion for "exceptionally meritorious service from September 1965 to March 1966."

TRANSIENT BILLETING is extremely limited at Yokota AB and Johnson Family Housing Annex in Japan. This limitation is expected to continue indefinitely. Transient personnel are now being sent to Tachikawa AB for accommodations due to shortages at both places, as well as the off-base area.

U.S. OLYMPIC swimming, diving and water polo teams will use pools at Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., for high altitude training in preparation for Olympic Games in Mexico City. Training is planned for late summer of 1968.

COAST GUARD MADE first official message from ashore to a ship at sea with new NASA ATS-1 experimental satellite. Message was statement from Coast Guard Commandant to cutter Klamath in Pacific and was termed "a remarkable breakthrough that will add a new chapter to maritime communications." ATS-1 will be used by Coast Guard to explore maritime communications capabilities during next few weeks.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Background for Commanders

TOWARD A COMMUNITY OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS*

It is our fundamental belief that in our age we must seek to construct a world of cooperative communities. These communities need not be of one mold. Some may reflect similarities in development and ways of life. Some may be regional; others may cut across regional boundaries. The basic point is that today the profoundest problems we face are too great for the nation-state, the traditional unit of international affairs, to handle.

This does not mean that the nation-state has outlived its usefulness or that we seek to create a world of supranational political cartels. However, organizing global peace, promoting global welfare, diffusing globally the fruits of science and technology can be done more effectively in the setting of larger, cooperative communities that reflect what unites them and submerge what has traditionally divided them.

It is to the promotion of such a world of cooperative communities that the U.S. is globally committed.

Factors

• The thrust of history clearly points to the emergence of larger units as an inevitable consequence of social and political development.

• The nature of economic organization increasingly involves wider and wider patterns of interrelationships. Modern economic organization can no longer be confined to small national entities.

• Science and modern weapons technology increasingly require a broad and highly complicated continental industrial base. (The recent Italian proposal for a common effort to close the so-called technological gap is symptomatic of a widening realization of this fact.)

• Modern communications put men in continuous contact with one another on a scale unprecedented in history.

All of these factors together give man a broader vision of reality. Through time, man's self-identification and perception of the world around him have moved from family to city to province to nation and now increasingly to regional cooperation.

Creation of a world of cooperative communities is the real imperative of our search for a stable peace. Today, for the first time in the history of mankind, our world is united—but it is united by fear. Fear of a nuclear funeral pyre has linked mankind in a single emotion, something never before experienced.

In time, existing alliance systems might logically develop into a common world security system. In the past they served to wage war; in our age they deter war; tomorrow they must shift collectively to the promotion of peace.

By seeking in our time to build a world of cooperative communities, we may make it possible for our children to live in a world that is truly a human community.

A New Europe

Today a new Europe is emerging. Someday Europe will be a continent that links the United States and the Soviet Union—and, indeed, even Japan—in a larger community of the developed nations.

If that day is nearing—as I firmly believe it is—it is nearing because we have persisted, and will persist, in two more immediate and mutually reinforcing tasks: seeking ever-closer Western unity and striving to attain a true European settlement through an East-West reconciliation.

A united Europe would not be one country, nor would it be a melting pot. It would be a continental mosaic, the richer for its diversity, the stronger for its unity.

Today, to be sure, the USSR and East Europe are not fully a part of Europe. They are detached from it because of political, security, and ideological considerations.

But the East is also seeking broader cooperative solutions. Larger unity and larger organization are recognized there as well, both as a need and as a factor of stability. For example, CEMT, the Council of Economic Mutual Assistance, began as an essentially ideological, political organization. It included even Mongolia. Now increasingly we find subregional cooperation becoming accepted in the East in place of the more politically motivated CEMA framework. As CEMA fades, more genuinely East European forms of cooperation are already beginning to develop. This is progress.

There is developing in the USSR a widening gap between the social and the political systems. The political system came into being to create a new society, an industrial society. Today that society has taken shape, and the political system is lagging behind it and has become, to some extent, an impediment to social change. This creates pressures pointing to broad social alienation from the political system. In Eastern Europe we note some similar general tendencies.

It is increasingly important to look beyond the ideological cleavages of the past and to begin to emphasize what really unites the more developed nations of the East and the West.

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* *Excerpts from a recent address by Zbigniew Brzezinski, a member of the State Department's Policy Planning Council.*

'Model' Housing Program Slated for Capital Area

A "model program" to gain experience for off-base housing services for all military families will be conducted in the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus Vance said he will shortly appoint a top-level official to serve as the "Off-Base Housing Services Coordinator" for the area.

Information obtained will be made available to commanding officers throughout the continental U.S.

Responsibilities of the coordinator include:

- Conducting a census in the area.
- Establishing a housing referral service, conveniently available to all military families in the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area.
- Arranging for personalized assistance to military families in the area who require help in locating suitable off-base housing.

The coordinator will work with and through base commanders in the area to obtain community support and affirmative action from governmental officials, leading citizens, civic, religious and other appropriate groups. He will also work with realtors and others in the community to assure equal opportunity in off-base housing for military families.

Army Commanders Ordered To Check Retirement Honors

Army's chief of staff has called on commanders to review procedures insuring that retirees are properly honored for their long and dedicated service to the country.

Gen. Harold K. Johnson said he learned recently of several occasions where retirees were presented their papers by administrative personnel in a perfunctory manner.

The chief of staff said these instances were obviously exceptions, but a review of procedures is in order insuring that retirees are honored with the traditional, dignified ceremony.

PROVING GROUND TOUR — Dr. Georg Prader, Minister of Defense of Austria (left), is greeted by Maj. Gen. John M. Finn, Chief, Foreign Logistics, U.S. Army Materiel Command, upon arrival at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., for a general orientation on the command's activities.

AF Selects Supplier For Base Level Computers

Air Force has selected IBM Corporation to provide electronic data processing equipment for the Base Level Automation Standardization Program.

Officials said the program will provide a modern computer capability at base level throughout the Air Force by December 1969, if evaluation proves successful. Installation is scheduled to begin in April 1968.

The program includes computerizing areas of personnel, maintenance, operations, construction and other base level management requirements. Computers are now being used by base supply throughout the Air Force.

The first two systems, in Washington, D.C., and at Randolph AFB, Tex., are scheduled for July delivery.

Langley AFB, Va., has been selected as the Air Force operational site, with equipment scheduled by the end of this year.

SAC Names Winners In Missile Competitions

Five of nine trophy categories in the first Strategic Air Command missile combat competition were won by the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

The wing was awarded the Gen. William H. Blanchard Trophy, symbolic of the best missileers in SAC. The award is named for the former SAC Director of Operations and later Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, who died last year.

The Whiteman AFB Wing also received awards in Minuteman and "best combat crew overall" categories.

Three Titan II wings shared victories in the four other categories.

AF Parachutes Cargo Package of 50,150 Pounds

The 6511th Test Group (Parachute), El Centro, Calif., has successfully dropped a 50,150 pound package from a C-130 Hercules using a Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System (LAPES).

With LAPES, a cargo plane passes over a drop zone at about 10-feet altitude releasing a 15-foot ringslot parachute attached to four 28-foot parachutes.

Development of LAPES allows air delivery of heavy cargoes to unprepared sites with high accuracy and without landing of the aircraft, officials said.

U.S. Berlin Command Changes

The Defense Department has announced reassignment of Maj. Gen. Robert G. Fergusson, CG, U.S. Army Training Center, Ft. Ord, Calif, as U.S. Commander Berlin and CG, U.S. Army Berlin.

Gen. Fergusson will succeed Maj. Gen. John F. Franklin, who will become Deputy CG, Sixth U.S. Army.

The change will be effective June 3, 1967.

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